

**Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department
Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
May 11, 2023 - 7:00 PM
Parks and Recreation Admin House
123 Grannis Lane**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barb Thorson, Bobby Deal, Jane Laney, Scott Bell, Seth Hathcock
VIRTUAL Deb Tatu, Joseph Cooke
STAFF PRESENT: Tate Osborne, Stacy McGlamery

MINUTES

Tate Osborne, new Parks and Recreation Director, welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order and lead the prayer.

No requests to speak.

Barb Thorson made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2023, March 9, 2023, and April 6, 2023 meetings. Bobby Deal seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.



Iredell County Parks & Recreation
Staff and Park Reports for Recreation Advisory Board

May 4, 2023

STAFF

Sports, Events & Facilities	Programming	Recreation Center	Parks Grounds	Admin
Brandon Free Marty Haneline	Austin Setzer Stacey Ulaszek <i>Vacant- Youth/OEC</i>	James Huffman Ronda Benfield Devon Sawyer	Micah Deane Scotty Harris Jordan Lail Ben Liles Steven Beavers	Tate Osborne <i>Asst Dir- vacant</i> Stacy McGlamery

HIGHLIGHTS

Administration:

- Leadership team met with two applicants for Parks and Rec Director
- Micah, Ronda and Stacy met to review equipment for inclusive playground equipment list for Jennings Park
- Micah, Ronda and Stacy visited Rescue Ranch and Ellis Park’s inclusive playgrounds

- Micah and Stacy met with David Saleeby, Project Manager, and Antonia Stines from Purchasing to begin the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) process for the Jennings Park Inclusive Playground.
- Micah and Stacy met with David Saleeby to discuss the ADA walking trail and sidewalk project at Stumpy Creek Park
- Sat in on interviews for Camp/OEC candidate

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Met with 1on1basketball Inc. about possible dates for summer sports clinics.
- Met with Statesville Masonic Lodge about possible future baseball fence sponsorships.
- Met with NXT Sports representatives about planning for June Lacrosse Tournament.
- Completed food vendor contracts for Stumpy Creek and Jennings Park spring sports season.

Programming:

- Camp counselor training
- May Life of Leisure distributed by email and at rec center April 20th
- Adult Program registration for May began on 4/21
- May Life of Leisure sent for printing, will be mailed by May 1
- Created program and trip evaluations for participant feedback.
- Day Trips: 4/14 - Mooresville Antique Malls (cancelled due to low enrollment), 4/20 – A Visit to Belmont, NC – 20/22 registered, 4/24 Duke Mansion Tour 21/22 registered.
- Lifestyle Enrichment Programs: 4/11 Garden Art (6/10 registered), 4/13 Coffee & A Craft (6/10 registered), 4/17 Upcycled Designs (5/10 registered), 4/19 Sip n’ Paint (7/10 registered), 4/27 Book Club (11/15 registered), 4/28 A Quilled Creation (7/10 registered)
- April Newsletter distributed 3/31
- Austin represented ICPRD @ MCC Job Fair 4/6
- Austin presented Rec Center lunch & learn to 3A Composites 4/25
- Austin attended NCRPA’s CAPRA Accreditation Informational Zoom 4/25
- Worked with rec center to reserve functional training space and upstairs space for adult programs.
- Executed 5 new lifestyle enrichment programs & two day trips successfully

Recreation Center:

- Started marketing pool information.
- Uncovered pool and prepping it for inspection.
- Submitted request for pool inspection.
- Ronda and James visited the Watauga County Recreation Center to stay on the pulse of the fitness industry.
- Hiring 4 new lifeguards, 5 lifeguards are returning from the 2022 season.
- Had the remaining old boiler system pipes removed from lobby, hallway, fitness center and locker rooms.

Recreation Center: Membership & Attendance	March	YTD
Membership Category:		
*Regular Membership		701
County Employees		34
Corporate		11
Insurance		252
Partnered Membership		28
Pool Passes		
Current Membership accounts:		1,026
Total Individuals in all membership categories <i>(including children under the age of 14)</i>		1,576
Pool Drop-ins (Including groups, lessons & rentals)		closed
\$5 Drop-in Registrants	510	1,357
Group Exercise Attendance	1,068	3,187
Total Check-ins (including pool)	5,444	16,743

**Annual Family County & Corporate memberships are included with Regular memberships due to reports*

Park Properties:

- Aerate Bermuda fields
- Fertilized Bermuda fields
- Spread mulch in Stumpy Creek Park
- Starting up irrigation at Stumpy Creek Park

Park Reservations for: MARCH		
Park	Amount of Reservations	Total Participation
Bigleaf Slopes	0	101
East Iredell Lions Club Community Park	4	115
Jennings (Fields only, w/o Ropes Course)	50	1,704
Jennings (Other/Special Events/Shelter)	0	0
Outdoor Education Center at Jennings Park	0	0
Rec Center Field	8	205
Rec Center Gymnasium	125	1,113
Scotts Rosenwald Community Building	7	199
Scotts Rosenwald (fields only)	0	0
Stumpy Creek (fields and picnic shelters)	154	8,696
Stumpy Creek Boat Landing	0	5,085
Stumpy Creek Disc Golf Course	0	420
Totals	348	17,638

UPCOMING DELIVERABLES

Administration:

- Introduce a new director to all parts of Iredell County Parks and Recreation.

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Possible registration dates for sports clinics.
- FC Atletico 2023-2024 tryouts May 3rd – May 11th
- Impact FC Tournament on May 20th
- Completion of spring Soccer Shots season.

Programming:

- 2 carts acquired at surplus – repainting to create two “Exercise your Mind” carts for the rec center. One will be a small mobile library for book borrowing and the other will be for puzzles to borrow. Will reach out for donations to fill the carts.
- May is Older Americans Month – during the first week of May two drop-in activities have been planned to celebrate it.
- Summer (June, July, & August) Life of Leisure will be distributed May 26th.
- Austin to meet with Iredell Library Staff about partnering on Touch-A-Truck event – date TBD
- Marketing for May/June programming

Recreation Center:

- Lifeguard certification. Date TBD
- Repainting of the water feature.
- Pool inspection

Park Properties:

PAST DELIVERABLES

Administration:

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Meeting with Charlotte Disc Golf Association

Programming:

Recreation Center:

- Reinstatement of employee of the month

Park Properties:

CALENDAR: EVENTS & PROGRAMS

DATE	Event	Division
Month of May	Be a Member Get a Member Promotion	Rec Center
May 18 th	Osteoporosis Health Talk	Rec Center
May 29 th	Opening Day of the pool	Rec Center
May 3 rd – May 11 th	FC Athletico 2023-2024 Tryouts	Athletics
May 20 th	Impact FC Soccer Tournament	Athletics
May 1 st & 3 rd	Selfie Challenge	Programming
May 2 nd & 4 th	Paint a Rock	Programming
May 8 th	Mini-Trip: Carolina Pie Co. (4/9)	Programming
May 9 th	Garden Art (4/8)	Programming
May 11 th	Coffee & a Craft (3/8)	Programming
May 17 th	Sip n' Paint (5/8)	Programming
May 19 th	Day Trip: UNCC Botanical Gardens (3/22)	Programming
May 22 nd	Day Trip: McDowell Nature Preserve (6/22)	Programming
May 24 th	Day Trip: Flat Rock Playhouse Steel Magnolias (22/22 with WL - FULL!)	Programming
May 25 th	Book Club (11/15)	Programming
May 26 th	A Quilled Creation (3/8)	Programming
May 30 th	Date with Nature (3/15)	Programming

Tate said he is excited to be here. He looks forward to working on Jennings Park and the inclusive playground just to name two. This team has made things easier for him and allowed him to come in and get straight to work on parks. He met with David Saleeby this morning on Stumpy Creek and Jennings Parks.

Sports, Events and Facilities

- Tate and Brandon meet on Monday to go over sports camps. Brandon has some good ideas of things he wants to do. Brandon has met with some people about future baseball sponsorships. Completed food vendor contracts for Stumpy Creek and Jennings Park for spring sports.
- Met the NXT representatives about lacrosse tournament.

Programming

- Attendance is between 5 to 10 each day Stacey has had a program. She has some phenomenal stuff planned. She is very talented and she has some great stuff planned.
- At the Rec Center, she put a couple hummingbird feeders at the Rec Center. She is going to build a pollinator garden between the fire hydrants at the Rec Center.
- The main issue going forward for Stacey is space – finding space to do the things she wants to do.

- Austin is coming up with marketing ideas for our department.

Recreation Center

- Rec Center has started marketing for the pool. It passed inspection. Pool needs some light cleaning. Ronda and James visited Watauga County Recreation Center. James hired four new lifeguards and five are returning from last year.
- Old boiler pipes have been removed from the lobby. People have commented on how it lightened up the lobby.

Parks Grounds

- Micah and his crew have been aerating and fertilizing the Bermuda fields.
- They spread mulch at Stumpy Creek Park and fixing the irrigation. Tate was amazed when Micah said they had no leaks and only had to replace one head.
- Tate went out to Jennings. He is a baseball guy and is particular about fields. The guys do a good job on the fields.
- There are two mowers in the FY24 budget. At the budget retreat it was mentioned that we should look into leasing mowers. After investigating, with the number of mowers we have and the warranty we have on our new mowers, leasing was not a good fit for us at this time.

Jane Laney asked about the Assistant Director and programming position. Tate said he would give those updates in the staffing update.

OLD BUSINESS

FOLLOW UP ON CHANGING MEETING TIME

- When the question was put out to the group to change the meeting time, more members chose to keep the time at 7:00pm. Barb asked what prompted proposing a new meeting time for Rec Advisory. Stacy said the question came up when the meeting times changed for the Board of Commissioners.

JENNINGS PARK UPDATE

- Tate saw the latest set of plans today although they are not quite complete. Babe Ruth to use the fields until June 30. The County Manager gave approval as long as it did not affect our construction schedule. Demolition by Iredell County personnel will begin on July 1. Technically they have until Jul 18 to be done. The contractor will come in after that. Iredell County will not be storing anything for anyone during construction. Added a fence behind the inclusive playground. There was not a lot added or changed in the plan, only small things. Tate said he has done this for a long time. He was really impressed with the thought that went into this plan. Automatic gates and automatic bathrooms will be so convenient after long days for tournaments. Bathrooms are big. Concessions are substantial. It is a well thought out.
- Barb asked if a family bathroom is included. It was not in the original plan. Tate said he did not see it today but he has been told that there is one. Tate said a bathroom in the press box could be converted to a family bathroom if it is not already on the plans. There is an elevator in the press box so an upstairs bathroom could become the family bathroom. Barb said that nowadays, moms do not feel comfortable sending their boys into the men's room alone and dad's do not feel comfortable sending their girls into the women's room alone. Tate said he would talk to David, project manager, about the family bathroom.

- Tate said they are still talking about turf for the fields but not sure how it will shake out. There are issues with water and water lines. There are good ideas with turf and also with infield dirt. It will depend on pricing also. Tate would like to see the one field next to the inclusive playground as turf so we could do Buddy Ball. Jane asked how much turf infield would cost. Tate does not have a dollar figure at this time. Buddy Ball is for handicap kids. The partner with an able-bodied person. They go around the bases together. It is a good program. It would be a great opportunity for us to have them. There are two programs – Miracle League and Buddy Ball.
- Our staff saw the timeline for the RFQ for the playground this week. We hope to have a contractor picked by August 1. The first week of July we should be doing interviews. We look forward to that. Work will not be until the Spring of 2025.

STUMPY CREEK BALLFIELD LIGHTING / ADA WALKING TRAIL

- Ballfield lighting project should be ready to go. Everything should be done. Tate spoke to someone today about the ADA walking trail. It is on schedule. It should take about 30 days to put the lights in once they start. We do not want to do the path until after the lights are installed.

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE FOLLOWUP

- Tate has had success on ballfield sponsorships in the past. He has met with Austin. Austin has flyers prepared to share on social media to start advertising. Tate is going to make some 4x4 corrugated plastic “cardboard” signs made to put at each site advertising our sponsorship package. We plan to use 4x8 aluminum with a high-resolution vinyl sticker that attaches. They will be bright and show up well.

MEMORIAL FOR COMMISSIONER NORMAN

- There was some discussion about a memorial for Commissioner Norman at previous meetings but no definite conclusion was decided.
- Seth asked if the size of the inclusive playground had been resized on the new plans for Jennings Park. Tate said the playground is 7,000 sq. ft. It has been moved towards the foul poles of the championship field. Tate has some feelers out to some large corporations about possibly going in with us on the playground – perhaps helping with the cost of the surfacing. If we found a hospital, they could use it for physical therapy and it would help with our costs. It would benefit both parties. The location of the playground is a good place now.

New Business

STAFFING UPDATES

- They offered and hired someone for the camp position. She has a lot of energy and think she will be really good for us. Her tentative start date is June 5 so she will be in place in time to meet the parents before camp the camp meet and greet.
- Tate has been hired as director and he is glad to be here.
- The Assistant Director position opened yesterday. It closes on May 19. We want this position filled before we start the capital projects. Some things in the job description have changed. The programming and outdoor education pieces have been taken out and added in other things. No major changes. Tate plans to change the organization chart of the department once the position

is filled. A couple of the current division managers will go under that assistant director position. This will allow Tate to keep facilities and capital projects. The fairgrounds will be another project coming on board too.

BUDGET

- Tate and Stacy went before the Commissioners and county administration to review our FY24 budget request. They did not have a lot of questions. They did not really question anything in our budget. There was some talk about Jennings. The discussion moved to the topic of the fairgrounds. Tate said the team did a great job with the budget and it shows.
- Micah asked for a new position in Parks Grounds. It is still in the budget proposal.
- They cut overtime from each budget.
- Rec Center requested to paint the gymnasium upstairs.
- Capital projects were Jennings, some money set aside for the greenway in Statesville, and 3 Corners project.
- There may be a position in programming that is inactive that we could reactivate. If we can, we will work to fill that position.

JUNE/JULY MEETING DATE/LOCATION

- After some discussion, the group decided the next meeting will be July 13 at the Parks and Rec Admin house at 7pm.
- Department will still do staff reports for June. Playground interviews may be done by then.

Additional items from Tate:

- Started putting an agenda and guest list together for Jennings ground breaking. Will have media there. Babe Ruth league. Dignitaries. If you know of someone specifically that should be there, please let Stacy know. We do not have a date set yet. Hope to have a Save-The-Date next week. We are looking sometime around the week after our next meeting.
- Concession stands are big and nice. There is one at the baseball fields and one at the soccer fields. They are identical. We had in our budget to purchase a slushy machine and a popcorn machine. Tate talked Brandon into buying two big Paragon popcorn machines. Jennings has the potential to do good on concessions. When there are tournaments and people are sitting there all day, we need to be able to offer concessions. The parks and rec department will run the concessions.
- Barb asked if all teams will be charged the same. Tate said that typically the organization he brings in to run the tournament would take care of charging the teams, paying the umpires, etc. We would negotiate with them. He has also done flat rates in the past. There are organizations that do not want to mess with concessions. They do not have the people to work concessions. Each tournament would be unique contract.
- Jane asked what the food trucks that come to Stumpy Creek are charged. Tate did not know. He has been here for 8 days but said on Day 9 he would find out for her. Going back to the slushy machine, Tate said that would make a mess in a concession stand. If we have a teenager working part time, have that person sell popcorn and have a shaved ice truck in the parking lot and pay us.

Bobby said using food trucks is what so many places have gone to because they cannot find people to work.

- Scott asked if setting up electricity for the food trucks was still part of the plan. Bobby said we talked about a designated area with plug ins. Tate said he would check on that. Jane said the truck that comes to Stumpy uses a generator. Just one truck that comes to Stumpy on Saturdays. Bobby said we sell popcorn and drinks. The food truck would sell hotdogs and hamburgers. This way they do not compete with each other.
- Tate said it may not be a bad idea for an ice truck to come to the Rec Center and set up on Fridays.

We went around the room and introduced everyone.

Barb Thorson made a motion to dismiss, seconded by Seth Hathcock. Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

The next Recreation Advisory meeting will be on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Parks and Recreation Conference Room in the Administrative Offices (located at 123 Grannis Lane).

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy McGlamery

Recreation Advisory Board Secretary